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THE RUSSIAN WAR:

A VIEW OF IT FROM THE GREEN MOUNTAINS.

THE European nations are summing up the gains and the losses of this war with Russia, and balancing accounts. Let an observer from a valley in the Green Mountains do the same thing. Such a comparison of the good and the evil, is a common sense view, which people will take even of war and peace. A genuine "*practical wisdom*" view may be taken by the looker-on, if not by the parties engaged—by the citizen of the world, if not by the governors of nations—by the man who cultivates beans in the valley of the Green Mountains, if not by the lords of the treasury.

The good and the gains were the objects of the war, not the evils and the losses. These last were unavoidable, as the reaper may cut his finger, or he may find a shilling while he gathers his wheat. What good things have the war done? Who has gained by the war? This is a fair question; it will be asked by many, and should be answered.

1. Turkey has gained a prolonged existence; that is, the treaty at the end of the war will sustain the Turkish nationality a little longer than Turkey could have sustained herself. It is true, the nations might have agreed to do this without fighting; but the wise rulers of Europe chose to kill their hundreds of thousands, and to expend their eighteen hundred millions, and *afterwards* agree to help Turkey to a few years of weak and sickly existence. The way they have agreed to help Turkey into a little longer life, is by each nation promising to keep her hand a little while away from seizing the portion of the Turkish possessions that is certain to be seized ere long. Turkey has gained the existence of to-morrow by the war, because the nations have made a solemn treaty not to murder her to-day. This is a clear gain to Turkey.

But this is an incidental gain, for which Turkey need not give thanks to any nation. It is not out of love to her that the nations have spared her life. It is not by any hope that she is to be a reformed and a useful nation—a nation of true morals, of civilized ideas, and free consciences—that they have suffered her to live a short space. Full well the cabinets of Europe know that no nation was ever reformed by external presence and by war violence. But the motive of this clemency is national jealousy. The nations did not feel prepared for the conflict of the partition of Turkey. The late war is a compromise with time before the great and final conflict. The great battle is to be in due time. Who of the nations shall inherit Constantinople, cannot be determined by lot nor by treaty, either before or after the struggle. It will be decided by the power which gains and holds the city. This is to be the great battle of the world. The child is now born who is to be its hero; and he may now be in his youth, or may be in his manhood.

2. The emperor of France has gained power and character, or, it may be, *position*. This gain is incidental to the war, and no object of the war, or of

any party to the war except France. All the nations agree that France has made a gain; has risen in consideration among the nations.

Is not this gain by France a loss to the rest of mankind? So much as France has gained, Romanism has gained, infidelity has gained, superstition has gained, immorality has gained. So much as these have gained, the Bible has lost. Christianity has lost, freedom has lost,—free conscience, free thought, free intellect have lost,—Protestantism has lost. So much as France has advanced, truth and salvation have retrograded in the prospect. So much as France has gained, hope for the world has lost. Hope for the world does not build on the principles on which France builds,—not on any one of them, except industry and the sciences. So much as France has gained, the hope for the Christian peace of nations has lost.

The present gain by war points out to Napoleon the path of his glory, and he awaits his time to make more gains by war. His prestige is war. He occupies the throne of France by the wars of his uncle. Therefore Europe must be prepared for war. There must be an increase in all the material of war. The time is approaching in which Russia will take everlasting possession of Constantinople, while France and England are contesting for the prize. *Let this stand as a prediction.*

3. Russia has gained by the war confidence and experience. Now Russia knows that the people are true, and her government strong; and she knows that the Alliances of Europe cannot take and keep one acre of her vast possessions. The war and the peace have taught Russia that she may bide her time in peace, and then make her conquests in the South and the East; and that patience, and her resources of war, will ensure to her the Black Sea, and ultimately the Mediterranean.

4. England has gained a lesson in war and in peace. The English nation is wise, and will be taught by this experience many useful lessons in practical wisdom. This gain is incidental, and no part of the object of the war.

The poor classes of the people have so learned what the fate of a soldier is, that they hear the warning and will not enlist. All the English people have gained a deeper sympathy than was ever felt before in the sufferings of the soldiers, and they will remember it, and be slower to encourage their government into another war. The English people have gained practical wisdom on the policy of war, as to the waste of treasures. Their own share, which may be a fourth of the whole expenses, would buy one half the 45,000 miles of railroads now in the world. I believe it would purchase all the railroads in the United States. It would have paid one-fourth of the national debt. The English people have gained thoughts of practical value on the weakening of the nation by these subtractions of war. Give back to England her lost money, and men, and morals, and the good will of God lost by the crimes, and the people would quickly give back the glory and all other gains, if any can be found.

The people have gained some good thoughts about the religion of war. The good will of God to any nation is the most valuable thing of that nation. War is a rapid consumer of this good will. This is the heaviest of

the losses, and estimated as the lightest—not reckoned at all into the account. The nation that has gained this loss, has lost its greatest gain. So much as this war has given to the English heart a higher value for the good will of God, and a truer estimate of its loss by the war, this is the richest gain of the war to England. If the good will of God to the nation were prized at its true value by all the people of England, the government would scarcely be led into another war, and England would be the most precious people of this earth—the most glorious and the most peaceful.

5. The world has gained some knowledge of the deceptions and vain gloryings of war. The simple hearted child of the Green Mountains honestly believes that the Allies have gained possession of the fortresses and harbor, and south section of the Crimea. He believed that the Black Sea would be in possession of the Allies, and that Russia would not be permitted hereafter to place armed vessels upon these waters. ‘Why, Sebastopol is taken, and the rejoicings and giving of thanks to the God of armies is great in England and in France.’ No, nothing like it; the Sebastopol north of the harbor is not taken, and cannot be; and not a vessel, of friend or foe, can find shelter in the harbor. Three highways are open to the Russians, and the Russian emperor has visited the northern fortress since the southern was taken. In taking Sebastopol, the Allies took the bare walls of the weakest half of the fortification; but they gained the glorification, and the power to make a peace in the halo of it, which was all the gain they had on hand to show.

6. The noble and Christian Peace Society of England has gained arguments and power in defence of the Christian peace of nations. This is an incidental gain, and no part of the object of the war. In the time of a popular war, these friends of peace have had their trials, rowing against a strong tide of public opinion. But they are able and earnest men, and have fearlessly held the public to the Christian rule, have exposed the false pretences for the war, its entire uselessness, its want of all right motives, and the hopelessness of benefit coming out of it. Their predictions as to the vast losses and small gains of the war, are marvellously fulfilled. The war has filled their mouths with arguments for peace, and they are using their arguments with wisdom. As they stand on true principles, and are true men, true friends of the English people, and the nobility, and the government, and as God is with them, the English Peace Society will change the public opinion, and the policy of the government approaching nearer to the will of God, and to the peace of the world.

Friends of God and man, go forward in this work of true reform—“Peace on earth and good will to man.” You have the finest field in the world to work in—the English heart. The object of your reform is from war and hate, the greatest of crimes and sufferings, to praise and love, the greatest of joys and blessings. Your progress animates every friend of humanity. God helps you, and you will prevail. Many a heart in America loves you, prays for the peace you pray for, and believes in your success.

There are gains of the war, incidental, but in part valuable,—wayside

gatherings, but mixed with blessings,—not to be credited to the conductors of the war, but to those who can bring good out of evil. Whether these gains will balance the losses, we will see in another paper.

GREEN MOUNTAINS.

THE EASTERN WAR:

SOME ENGLISH VIEWS OF ITS LOSSES AND GAINS.

A GLIMPSE OF ITS LOSSES.—It is difficult to estimate, with any approach to accuracy, the amount of injury of various kinds that Europe has sustained during the recent conflict. So far back as June, 1855, Mr. Gladstone computed the number of lives lost at that time as little less than half a million. "If we have then," he said, "15,000 English, between 30,000 and 40,000 French, and 120,000 Turks, numbered among the dead as the consequence of this war, it is no consolation to think that 250,000 Russians have been killed. The total number of the slain is nearly half a million; so that during this war, on an average, the lives of 1,000 of our fellow creatures have been extinguished daily." But this, it must be remembered, was before the fall of Kars, and the sanguinary skirmishes, battles and assaults that preceded it. And above all, it was before the fearful and wholesale butcheries of the Malakoff and Redan, and the destructive bombardment which led to the capture of Sebastopol. We have seen it recently stated, on Russian authority, that during the few days of that bombardment, they lost 30,000 men. Altogether, it can hardly be deemed an exaggeration, if we put down the total number destroyed during the war at 700,000 human beings. How much of suffering these figures represent—how much of horrible physical agony, inflicted by every form of injury and mutilation of which the human frame is susceptible, and the still worse, because more protracted, torments of cold, famine and pining disease—how much of secret mental anguish endured by the poor victims, dying in terror and solitude, without the solace of domestic love, or the support of religious consolation—how much of sharp and prolonged torture borne by affectionate hearts at home, while held for months and years in distracting suspense as to the fate of the sufferers—how much of black and terrible despair, quenching the very light of life in hundreds of desolate homes, when the decisive tidings of death came! What an aggregate of agony all this represents what imagination can conceive!

And as to the cost in money, that must have been enormous. On this subject a correspondent of the *Independence Belge* makes the following statement:—England, deducting the ordinary war-budget, has thrown into the struggle 100 millions sterling in loans and additional taxes. France has been obliged to expend 1,500 million francs, or 60 millions sterling, over and above her extraordinary war-budget. As regards Turkey, an outlay of nearly 5 millions is known; but that must be a very small portion of her losses. It is well known that Russia has borrowed 21 millions sterling, without speaking of the exhaustion of all her financial resources. Austria, by merely keeping her armies on a war-footing, has expended the almost incredible sum of £45,000,000. Adding the extra expenses incurred by Prussia to meet eventualities, and the expenditure of Piedmont, he makes the total amount to be 280 millions sterling. But it is clear at a glance that some at least of these figures are greatly under-rated. It is ridiculous to compute the cost of the war to Turkey at only 5 millions, and equally so that